



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

18 APRIL 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Fresno – 43 Arrested in Central Valley Crackdown on Street Gangs

(U) California authorities announced on Friday the arrest of 43 suspected gang members accused of drive-by shootings, murder, assaults, funding their illicit activities in the Central Valley through prostitution rings, and the sale of guns and narcotics. A five-month investigation into violent criminal street gangs in Fresno County culminated Thursday with a "massive takedown" by over 200 law enforcement personnel, helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, and 25 SWAT teams, Fresno Police Chief Paco Balderrama said. The arrests include 17 related to human trafficking and pimping, the California Department of Justice said in a statement. Nearly 50 firearms were also seized in a single day, CHP said. SOURCE: 16 April 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Placerville – Suspect in Killing of Sheriff's Deputy Convicted of Second-Degree Murder

(U) The man who shot and killed an El Dorado County deputy in 2019 was found guilty of second-degree murder in court on Friday. Deputy Brian Ishmael, 37, was killed in the line of duty on 23 October 2019, while responding to reports of a robbery at an illegal marijuana grow operation in the Somerset area. Juan Carlos Vasquez-Orozco, 22, was found guilty of Ishmael's murder and also of assault with a firearm against three other deputies who were responding to the scene with the deputy. SOURCE: 14 April 2022, [KCRA 3 Sacramento](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – Authorities Seize Nearly \$2.6 Million in Narcotics Bust

(U) Tecate – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Tecate, California, seized more than 400-pounds of methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin concealed in toolboxes in a 1 April seizure worth an estimated \$2.56 million. According to a news release, officers working at the Tecate Port of Entry stopped a Toyota Tundra driven by a 56-year-old Mexican national with a valid legal permanent resident document. Further inspection of the vehicle revealed 94 packages of narcotics stashed inside and underneath multiple toolboxes on the bed of the vehicle. Testing confirmed the suspected narcotics to be slightly more than 415-pounds of cocaine, meth, and heroin. SOURCE: 16 April 2022, [Cox Media Group](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) New York – Man Charged with Hate Crimes in Two Separate Attacks on Sikh Men

(U) Queens – A man was charged with hate crimes last week in connection to two separate attacks on three Sikh men this month, the New York City Police Department said. Vernon Douglas, 19, was arrested in connection with a 3 April attack on Nirmal Singh, 70, who was visiting from India, as well as a 12 April assault and robbery on two other Sikh men who were reportedly 76 and 64 years old, according to police. Both attacks were reported in the Richmond Hill area of Queens. There is a significant Sikh population in Richmond Hill and a gurdwara, a Sikh house of worship, near the intersection where the assaults happened, Graham West, communications director for the Sikh Coalition said. SOURCE: 15 April 2022, [NBC News](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) South Carolina – Suspect Arrested in Mall Shooting

(U) Columbia – Police have arrested a suspect in connection with a shooting at a shopping mall in South Carolina's capital on Saturday that left 14 people injured. Columbia Police Chief W.H. "Skip" Holbrook said Jewayne M. Price, 22, who was one of three people initially detained by law enforcement as a person of interest, remains in police custody and is expected to be charged with unlawful carrying of a pistol. Fourteen people were injured during the shooting at Columbiana Centre, Holbrook said in a news release Saturday. The victims ranged in age from 15 to 73. Holbrook said no fatalities have been reported but that nine people were shot and five people suffered injuries while attempting to flee the mall for safety.

SOURCE: 17 April 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Colombia – Sinaloa Drug Cartel Member Arrested in Colombia

(U) Cali – A Mexican drug trafficker linked to jailed kingpin Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán's cartel has been arrested in Colombia, according to police, after his model girlfriend posted pictures of the pair kissing at a tourist attraction on Facebook. Colombian police arrested alleged Sinaloa drug cartel capo Brian Donaciano Olguin Verdugo, known by his nickname "El Pitt," in a luxury apartment in the city of Cali, they announced last week. The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) alerted Colombian authorities that El Pitt had entered the country in February. A Facebook post, made by the unnamed model, showing the couple at Los Cristales – a hilltop statue of Jesus Christ, which helped police track down the pair.

SOURCE: 16 April 2022, [Independent](#)

(U) Sweden – Government Links Riots to Criminal Gangs

(U) Helsinki – Swedish police said today they consider the violent riots that have shaken several cities and towns in the Nordic country extremely serious crimes against society and suspect some protesters are linked to criminal gangs that intentionally target police. Sweden has seen unrest, scuffles, arson and violence since Thursday that has left some police officers and protesters injured. It was triggered by Danish far-right politician Rasmus Paludan's meetings and planned Quran burnings across the country. Sweden's National Police Commander Jonas Hysing said Monday that 26 police and 14 individuals, protesters or other people, have been injured in the riots and 20 police vehicles destroyed or damaged.

SOURCE: 18 April 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Syria – ISIS Vows 'Revenge' for Leadership Deaths, Calls for Attacks Against Europe

(U) Raqqa – The Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) on Sunday vowed "revenge" over the killing of its former leader Abu Ibrahim al-Qurashi and former spokesperson Abu Hamza al-Qurashi, calling on supporters to take advantage of war in Ukraine to stage attacks in Europe. "We announce, relying on God, a blessed campaign to take revenge" over the death of Abu Ibrahim al-Qurashi and the group's former spokesman, an audio message attributed to the group and circulated on the Telegram messaging app. The group's new spokesman, Abu-Omar al-Muhajir, also called on supporters to resume attacks in Europe, taking advantage of the "available opportunity" of "the crusaders fighting each other" -- in reference to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The militant group's previous leader died in early February when he detonated a bomb to avoid capture during a US raid in northwest Syria, the White House and US defense officials said.

SOURCE: 18 April 2022, [Associated Foreign Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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